



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
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February 24, 1964

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your letter of February 14 to Dr. Bertie Woolf has been referred to me and I was interested to hear of your constructive meeting with Mr. Beresford.

I was also interested to see the notes which you sent to the National Center for Vital Statistics on demographic studies related to pediatric and genetic problems. I was sorry to hear that they were unable to furnish the requested tabulations to you. With respect to seasonal variation of birth, they have a recent observation which may be of interest to you. One of the hypotheses is that the seasonal variation might be due to changes in fetal mortality. In general, one would expect that the sex ratio would decrease with increased fetal mortality, as you know. They have put together three years of tabulations on seasonal sex ratio. There appears to be a correlation, all right, but it is exactly the opposite of the one expected - that is, a seasonal sex ratio increases as the natality decreases.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a report which I propose to publish on perinatal mortality in the Indians. Here I have made a very crude comparison of census variables with perinatal indices. This might be regarded as a before in a before-and-after comparison of what you might be able to develop with your computer. I am also working on a second report studying perinatal indices in Orientals. Most of this data is from California and it shows quite impressive differences.

I would be happy to receive any comments that you might have and any other information. I hope to be in touch with you after the Council action on the census material in March.

Very sincerely yours,

Franz Rosa, M.D., Acting Director  
Perinatal Biology Program  
National Institute of Child Health  
and Human Development

Enclosure